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SUBJECT: Envoy Kennedy Presses Greeks on Holocaust Restitution,
Plevris Acquittal

REF: 08 ATHENS 972; 08 THESSALONIKI 87

11. (SBU) SUMMARY: Ambassador J. Christian Kennedy, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, visited Athens March 28-31 to discuss progress on Holocaust property restitution and combating anti-Semitism with Greek officials, the Greek Orthodox Church, and local Jewish community leaders. Ministry of Economy and Finance representatives confirmed that they are considering offering the Thessaloniki Jewish community a property land swap to settle Jewish cemetery property restitution claims, but noted that any agreement would require parliamentary approval. Jewish community leaders informed Kennedy that anti-Semitic incidents were on the rise since December 2008 Israeli military action in Gaza. They were deeply disappointed by the March 27 appeals court acquittal of Kostas Plevris, author of the anti-Semitic book "Jews: The Whole Truth." Jewish community members stated that they planned to appeal the Plevris case to the European Court of Human Rights. Kennedy raised the Plevris acquittal during a meeting with the MFA, which issued a statement criticizing Plevris on April 8. END SUMMARY.